(c) if so, the details of financial allocation and utilisation of funds during the last three years as well as work undertaken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The Indian Oil Foundation has signed an MoU with the Archaeological Survey of India under the National Culture Fund for funding the conservation and development of this monument complex.

(b) and (c) UNESCO had released US $ 37,000 for the scientific investigations on the Sun Temple, Konark. Out of this sum, the Central Building Research Institute (CBRI) Roorkee conducted studies on soil investigations, stone core sampling, geo-radar studies etc. at a cost of Rs. 10.00 lakhs.

Fashion shows

4364. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state the details of specific reasons for not taking any effective and necessary steps to stop women's fashion shows being organised in the different parts of the country keeping in view the Indian culture?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Reduction of tourism tax

4365. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a research conducted by World Travel and Tourism Council has revealed that tax paid by tourists in India is around 40 per cent which is highest in the World;

(b) if so, whether India can attract more tourists by reducing tax;

(c) whether Government would reduce the tax; and

(d) the other details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) No, Sir. However, in a Status Paper of the World Travel and Tourism Council they have recommended that both Central and State Governments should evolve a taxation regime which yields revenue but is not unduly harsh.